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V-DAY COOKIE RECIPE
ALL THE EATING, NONE OF THE BAKING
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ARCADE FIRE SNAGS COVETED GRAMMY
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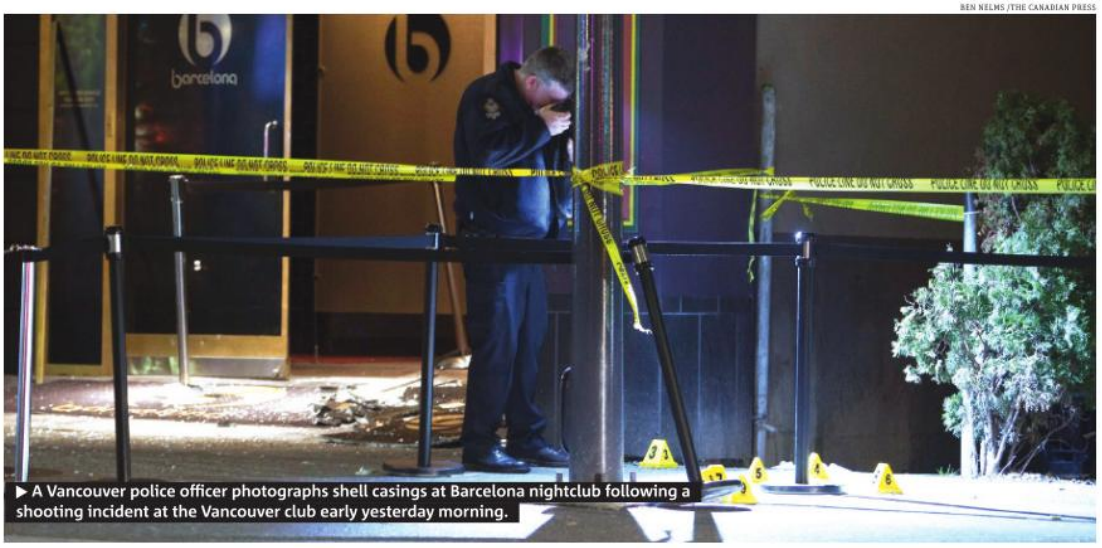
'SIDESHOW'
LEMIEUX SLAMS NHL FOR BRAWL FALLOUT {page 19}

VANCOUVER metro®
Monday, February 14, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Bouncer shot outside hotspot

Verbal jabs lead to gunshots outside Barcelona Lounge ◐ Doorman shot in the leg is expected to recover ◐ Hundreds of people put at risk, police say

BEN NELMS /THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ A Vancouver police officer photographs shell casings at Barcelona nightclub following a shooting incident at the Vancouver club early yesterday morning.

A nightclub bouncer is recovering in hospital after being shot in the leg during an argument in downtown Vancouver.

Vancouver police say the 39-year-old bouncer was just doing his job in front of the Barcelona Lounge, 1180 Granville St., around 1 a.m. yesterday morning when an altercation broke out with a man on the street.

Suddenly and without warning, the man pulled out a handgun and opened fire with "hundreds of people" in the immediate area.

"We were fortunate that no one else was seriously injured tonight," VPD spokesperson Const. Lindsey Houghton said.

A 32-year-old man from Alberta, who is known to police, could be facing numerous weapons and assault-related charges.

MATT KIELTYKA

Local

Valentine's walkers to hit streets

◐ March through DTES calls attention to women victimized by violence ◐ Walk commemorates act of solidarity and compassion 20 years ago {page 2}

Whose house? Momma's house!

Martin Lawrence franchise about to enter third phase {page 9}

Better to give than to receive

Couple cuts foundation in on wedding-gift action {page 3}

Jamie Foxx gets a little too feisty

Fight with ex-manager disrupts Usher concert {page 15}

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1 news

A warning on the perils of polls comes from an odd source: Pollsters. Scan the code for the story.

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3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at **m.metronews.ca**

On the web at metronews.ca

What's in a name? An awful lot when you're trying to crack the music biz. More at metronews.ca/backbeat

Follow us on Twitter @vancouvermetro

Whitecaps search for anthem singer

The Vancouver Whitecaps are looking to the Internet to help them find an anthem signer for the upcoming MLS season.

The club is now taking submissions until March 7 by getting people to upload videos of them signing the anthem on YouTube and linking it to the team's Facebook page. A group of finallists will be taken to Empire Field for live auditions. METRO

NATALIE KAUR JOHAL/FOR METRO

▶Young hockey players in Rogers Arena yesterday.

Youngsters learn life lessons at camp

A group of young hockey players were at Rogers Arena yesterday to take part in a skills camp with former Canucks Garry Valk and Dave Babych.

The players, aged 6 to 12, were taught the importance of co-operation, encouragement and commitment, both in and out of the rink.

"We're giving the kids analogies, lessons and metaphors that will help them succeed in life — not just sport," said Larry Pearson, an event instructor.

The kids then spent the afternoon sharpening their on-ice skills with Valk and Babych. NATALIE KAUR JOHAL

Anniversary. Games

▶ Despite heavy rain, thousands of people attended events in downtown Vancouver to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the start of the 2010 Games. The activities included street parties on Granville Street and Robson Square.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crowding around the Olympic cauldron

March honours missing women

▶ 20th annual Women's Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women begins at noon at Main and Hastings streets ▶ Participants will march through DTES, stopping at sites where women have died

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

Twenty years ago today, a handful of people took to the streets of Vancouver in mourning and protest after a woman was found murdered on Powell Street.

That act of compassion and solidarity — which sprang from a sense of hopelessness and anger — has grown into an annual march held every Valentine's Day to honour and support all women who are victims of violence.

"We are … failing to protect women from the degradation of poverty and systemic exploitation, abuse and violence," said Marlene George, organizer of the Women's Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women.

"The … list of missing and murdered women gets longer every year," she said.

Carol Martin, a victim-services worker, said the march sends a message that violence against women will not be tolerated.

"We cannot let (the victims') struggles be forgotten," she said.

B.C. Liberals vote gives rural ridings more say

B.C. Liberals have voted to give members in rural areas a stronger voice in how leaders will be selected.

"This is a great day for our party, our members and the province," said George Abbott, one of six leadership candidates, in a news release.

Liberals voted to move toward a weighted-voting system with preferential ballots.

The points-based system will give equal weight to all ridings, thus giving smaller rural ridings greater influence in future leadership votes.

NATALIE KAUR JOHAL

▶ Christy Clark

News in brief

Prisoner needs teeth: BCCLA

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association is calling on B.C. Corrections to give a convict a new set of dentures after a prison dentist pulled his teeth out.

The organization says the man has been unable to eat solid food for 13 months, has lost 18 pounds and has been diagnosed with diabetes.

Burnaby fugitive caught entering U.S.

American authorities say they managed to arrest a Burnaby man last week wanted for two alleged robberies and aggravated assaults.

Abdijabar Khalif, 24, was caught while trying to cross the border at the Pacific Highway crossing. He was immediately turned over to Canada Border Services Agency.

METRO

Wedding gifts pay it forward

Vancouver couple give 'gift of hope' to AIDS centre In honour of gift, the pair has been named the official Dr. Peter Centre 2011 Valentine's Day Couple

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

When Matthew Roberts and Eric Isbrucker said they wanted donations to the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation in lieu of wedding presents, their friends and family couldn't believe it.

"They were like, 'You don't want anything?'" said Roberts, who married Isbrucker in Vancouver this past weekend.

"I (pointed out) we're both in our 40s, we're financially successful, we have everything that we truly need. I really don't need a toaster."

The idea came to the couple when Roberts — who had been involved with AIDS work in the United States — was looking to become involved with a Vancouver-based organization.

"We took a tour … It was just amazing," said Roberts.

"We said if somebody asks us what we want, that instead of gifts and money, why don't you just give a gift of hope? They truly need it."

While the couple haven't counted the donations yet, Roberts and his husband have donated $500 of their own money.

Roberts said the Foundation's response was "like a family opening their arms to us."

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Eric Isbrucker, left, and Matthew Roberts at their engagement party.

Dr. Peter

- Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation offers a day health program and 24-hour nursing care residence for Vancouverites with HIV/AIDS.
- The centre also helps those suffering with addiction, poverty, mental illness and discrimination.
- To learn more about the organization, visit drpeter.org/home.

Blenz bands singles with coffee cups

Blenz Coffee is celebrating Valentine's Day by bringing singles together. During the week of Feb. 14, participating locations will be distributing red coffee sleeves that say you're single. Visit blenzred.com METRO

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Romance White House style means laughter

Here's Michelle Obama's advice for couples this Valentine's Day: Laugh with your partner.

She says it's what she and U.S. President Barack Obama do, and it seems to be working. Their marriage, although tested throughout the years by his political ambitions — for the Illinois Senate, the U.S. Senate and later the presidency — is going on 19 years.

"I think a lot of laughing," she said at a White House luncheon with reporters who asked about the Obamas' union. "I think in our house we don't take ourselves too seriously, and laughter is the best form of unity, I think, in a marriage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PM sees red, MacKay grey

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been locked in a lengthy tug of war with his defence minister over the future of the military's VIP Airbus, newly disclosed documents show.

Peter MacKay has repeatedly rejected requests from the PM's staff to have the Airbus painted a civilian white and red instead of its current military grey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caretaker rulers try to restore order

Egyptian troops scuffled with holdout protestors in Tahrir Square Police protest underscore challenges

Egypt's military leaders dissolved parliament and suspended the constitution yesterday, meeting two key demands of protesters who have been keeping up pressure for immediate steps to transition to democratic, civilian rule after forcing Hosni Mubarak out of power.

The military rulers who took over when Mubarak stepped down Friday and the caretaker government set as a top priority the restoration of security, which collapsed during the 18 days of protests that toppled the regime. The caretaker government held its first meeting since the president was ousted and before it began, workers removed a giant picture of Mubarak from the meeting room.

BEN CURTIS/AP PHOTO

▶ Egyptians take photos in front of newly painted muralsnear Tahrir Square in Cairo yesterday.

The protesters had been pressing the ruling military council, led by Defence Minister Hussein Tantawi, to immediately move forward with the transition by appointing a presidential council, dissolving the parliament and releasing political prisoners.

The suspension of the constitution effectively puts Egypt under martial law — where the military makes the laws and enforces them in military tribunals. The ruling council is expected to clarify the issue in upcoming statements and the role of civilian courts remains unclear.

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Economy not all doom and gloom: Analyst

Experts go out on a limb and forecast higher GDP than prevailing view Job numbers could perk up

The vast majority of economists see Canada experiencing modest growth this year, with little improvement in the job rate. That's the widely held view of the International Monetary Fund, the Bank of Canada and most private-sector economists. But it's not the universal opinion.

A few analysts believe Canadians will have a much better year than most think. The Royal Bank, Merrill Lynch Canada and others make the case for a much stronger economy in the next few years. If true, it would change the prevailing assumptions on everything from jobs and interest rates to government deficits.

RBC forecasted that Canada's gross domestic product will grow by a relatively robust 3.2 per cent this year, translating into the creation of 324,000 jobs, about 100,000 more than many others think likely.

Contrast that with the Bank of Canada, which forecasts growth of 2.4 per cent, and other analysts who predict growth of an even more modest 1.8 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 4 P.M. FRIDAY

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MINISTER OF EVERYTHING HAS NOTHING

Urban Compass

PAUL SULLIVAN

As we watch the B.C. Liberal leadership hopefuls peck each others' eyes out, the one man who is most qualified to be B.C.'s next premier beavers away in humble obscurity, forever shut out of the political Promised Land.

Remember Colin Hansen? Not too long ago he was considered Gordon Campbell's logical successor.

But that was before he got tangled up in the web of deceit that is the HST debacle. Campbell resigned; Hansen may as well have. His chances of becoming B.C.'s next leader went the way of all those sales tax exemptions we used to enjoy.

As far as I can tell, his punishment for backing up the boss on HST is to be forced to work his butt off as Minister of Everything while his fellow cabinet ministers take several months off to play politics.

Campbell resigned and went to Maui, his (mostly) happy place.

So, as finance minister, Hansen has to table a budget tomorrow to open the first session of the legislature in 256 days.

As health minister, he has launched an investigation into how two unqualified radiologists managed to review thousands of CT scans.

As finance minister, he has appointed a panel of experts to examine the virtues of the HST. (Good luck with that).

Busy, busy.

I wonder how he feels watching the mayor of Parksville duke it out with a CKNW talk show host for a job that could have been, should have been, his.

Whatever he thinks, in a couple of weeks Christy Clark or George Abbott or Kevin Falcon or somebody will be the premier of the province and he won't.

Maybe it's a good thing he doesn't have too much time to think.

What's sad is that Colin Hansen is the right man for the job. He's been humbled by defeat, forged by fire, and is probably the one person in government who really knows what's going on. The others are too busy fending off the threat of Clark.

As for the NDP, are you kidding? If you think Colin Hansen displays questionable political ethics, how about the Gang of 13? Not to mention Adrian Dix and his (alleged) political dirty tricks.

As the rest of our elected representatives wear themselves out doing the Funky Political Chicken, Colin Hansen just quietly goes about the business of government, a big "L" for Liar or Loser, or both, pasted on his forehead.

But how long will it be before all is forgiven and a solid majority of British Columbians, plus or minus four per cent, wonder where the Minister of Everything went when we need him?

Considering the alternatives, not long.

Cartoon

A day to show your love

Letters & Tweets

Today is the big day! Are you headed to work with a contented glow of somebody in love? Or are you rocking the sourpuss of one who has nothing but contempt for all these forced gestures of romance? Whichever it is, we went to the readers to assure you that you're not alone.

@shirisdancing: So what if u don't have a valentine? Love is selfless, tell someone YOU love that u love THEM. That's what it's all about.

@xbrav: It is a day to remember what is truly important to you. If you hate it, you regret not pursuing love! Show some love.

@darealapplemac: I'm apathetic on Valentine's Day. It's amusing to watch both sides flail their arms arguing their side, especially in tweets.

@mikeperse: I'm pro Valentine's Day now. But when I was single I wanted to strangle Cupid :-)

@cyrusrayne: I'm anti-Valentine's because it seems like forced sentiment that should be there every day.

@thetaoofken: Pro-Valentine's Day, 4 camp/fun side of it, & cinnamon hearts. I need something 2 hold me over 4 the next round of candy corn.

@diegirl: We love it! It's one of our favourite celebrations! It's celebrating love whether it's a partner, kids, family, it's all about love.

Sweet hearts

If it was your choice, who would get the best album Grammy?

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Metro Minute with Todor Kobakov

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a nice dinner and the music of classical solo pianist Todor Kobakov as he performs at the newly renovated Waldorf Hotel for a special Valentine's Day show.

The talented Bulgarian-born, Toronto-bred pianist, keyboardist, composer and producer has brought his grand piano to Vancouver for the one-day performance.

Dinner, which has choices for vegans, vegetarians and carnivores, begins at 7 p.m. and the performance kicks off at 10 p.m. at the Waldorf Hotel (1489 East Hastings St.). Tickets are $40 for dinner, $10 for just the show. Visit waldorfhotel.com for more info. SUNOHO CHOI

FACEBOOK.COM

▶ Todor Kobakov will perform at the Waldorf Hotel for a special Valentine's Day show tonight.

Arcade Fire pulls off Grammy upset

Montreal rock band claims album of the year ◗ Country trio Lady Antebellum wins five awards ◗ Neil Young takes home his first Grammy

Like a frigid breeze off the St. Lawrence, Arcade Fire froze a wild 53rd Grammy Awards gala dead in its tracks last night.

After losing out on two lesser awards, the Montreal rockers stunned a Staples Center audience filled with the some of the world's biggest stars by claiming the night's top prize: album of the year.

When the award was announced, bowled-over lead singer Win Butler fell to his knees.

"What the hell?" he said, probably summing up the feeling of many in attendance. "I just want to say thank you, merci, to Montreal, Quebec, for taking us and giving us a home and a place to be in a band."

Still stunned, he then swore before adding: "I can't believe it, we won. Merci Montreal!"

It was the final surprise in a Grammy ceremony that was absolutely packed with them.

Country crossover outfit Lady Antebellum nabbed a leading five trophies, but their haul was overshadowed by many other moments in the 2½ hour telecast.

This was a Grammys in which Lady Gaga swore on live TV, David Letterman provided laughs with a Top 10 list that poked jabs at many in attendance and Aretha Franklin was one of a series of legacy artists who was honoured with a heartfelt tribute.

Neil Young finally won a Grammy for his music, leading nominee Eminem was only a footnote on the night overall and an upstart band of indie-rockers from Montreal won the biggest music award in the world.

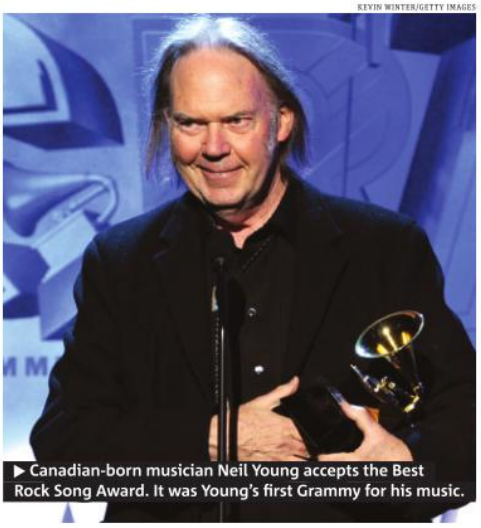
They had been up for two other prizes earlier in the day, but lost out to the Black Keys for both alternative music album and best rock performance by a duo or group with vocals and thus seemed dead in the water in the night's biggest category.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Arcade Fire accepts the album of the year award during The 53rd Annual Grammy Awards held at Staples Center last night in Los Angeles.

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Canadian-born musician Neil Young accepts the Best Rock Song Award. It was Young's first Grammy for his music.

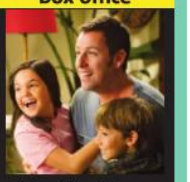
Winners

Winners in selected major categories at yesterday's 53rd Annual Grammy Awards:

- **Album of the Year:** The Suburbs, Arcade Fire
- **Record of the Year:** Need You Now, Lady Antebellum
- **Song of the Year:** Need You Now, Lady Antebellum
- **Best New Artist:** Esperanza Spalding
- **Pop Vocal Album:** The Fame Monster, Lady Gaga
- **Rock Album:** The Resistance, Muse
- **Rap Album:** Recovery, Eminem
- **R&B Album:** Wake up! John Legend & The Roots
- **Alternative Music Album:** Brothers, The Black Keys
- **Country Album:** Need You Now, Lady Antebellum
- **Female Pop Vocal Performance:** Bad Romance, Lady Gaga
- **Male Pop Vocal Performance:** Just The Way You Are, Bruno Mars
- **Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals:** Hey, Soul Sister (Live), Train
- **Rock Song:** Angry World, Neil Young
- **Rap Solo Performance:** Not Afraid, Eminem
- **Rap Song:** Empire State of Mind, Jay-Z and Alicia Keys
- **Dance Recording:** Only Girl (In The World), Rihanna
- **Traditional Pop Vocal Album:** Crazy Love, Michael Bublé

2 scene

Box office



Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston are America's box office sweethearts, but Justin Bieber is the valentine for teen fans. The Valentine's Day weekend was a close one as Sandler and Aniston's romantic comedy Just Go With It debuted with $31 million US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Royal romance gets the comic treatment

Kate and William: A Very Public Love Story will be published in April

The royal love story has been chronicled in speech bubbles and sketches.

A comic book telling the story of Prince William and Kate Middleton's romance is due to be published in April, joining a host of other books and memorabilia flooding the market ahead of the April 29 royal wedding.

"There's always been a tradition in this country of comics for girls in which the girl dreams of meeting someone famous and falling in love," said Mike Collins, the artist who did the illustrations for Kate and William: A Very Public Love Story.

"In this case, this is what's happened and it's for real," he said.

The graphic novel will be published in two editions: The first follows the prince's life from the rugby pitches of his exclusive boarding school to his adventures in the Royal Air Force, while the other traces Middleton's half of the story with cheeky fictional diary entries that imagine her as a love-struck student who later comes to terms with the ups and downs of being a future king's girlfriend.

The two halves will come together in a collected bound edition that's presented as a flip book and includes a fictional account of the wedding day (and a kiss, too.)

The couple make a good-looking comic book superhero and heroine, Collins said.

"She's got this flowing hair that's really lovely to draw, and he's got a very distinguished face," he said.

Rich Johnston, who wrote the script, said he didn't think William and his fiancee would mind having their love story chronicled in speech bubbles and cartoons.

"It's better than seeing themselves on a plate," he joked, referring to the many commemorative china items on sale.

A U.S. publishing house has also announced a rival to the comic, also to be published in April.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARKOSIA ENTERPRISES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ An illustration for the graphic novel Kate and William: A Very Public Love Story

A stand-up memoir

MONICA WEYMOUTH
@METRO.US
METRO WORLD NEWS IN PHILADELPHIA

Patton Oswalt decided to share some not-very-flattering details in his new memoir — including how he wasted his time on the Internet while not writing it.

"It's really like a syndrome or something," admits the comedian, who isn't ashamed of his spiteful Facebook tendencies. "It's a problem. I want distraction; I need distraction."

Occasional chapters of Zombie, Spaceship, Wasteland end with a "full disclosure" box, providing an amusing insight into his procrastination — muted space-shooter games, Breakfast Club trivia binges, YouTube pwnage compilations — as well as a welcome revelation that the successful comedian and actor hasn't totally abandoned his roots as a nerdy, REM-obsessed teenager working in an underground movie theatre.

Fans of Oswalt's stand-up (or 2009 film Big Fan) won't be surprised by the darker tone of his book. But if you're only familiar with his King of Queens character, then his hilariously dismal take on starting out as a comic, chapter of trippy greeting cards and urban vampire comic interlude might be unexpected.

The David Cassidy effect: A novelist's paean to the teen idol crush

DAN STEINBERG, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ David Cassidy in 2009, and at right, during his Partridge Family days.

British novelist Allison Pearson's devotion at age 13 for David Cassidy, a.k.a. Keith Partridge (of the feathered mullet and The Partridge Family), was so intense, she wore the colour brown for 18 months because she'd read it was his favourite.

"Almost my entire wardrobe was brown — brown bell-bottoms, brown platform shoes," says Pearson. "I actually look malarial in brown. But somehow, I thought it would give me some competitive advantage over the other fans."

Like most love-struck teens, Pearson, now 50, eventually recovered from the shock that she would never be Mrs. Cassidy. She reached adulthood, got married, had kids, became a prominent newspaper columnist in Britain and then a bestselling novelist with 2002's I Don't Know How She Does It, now being made into a movie with Sarah Jessica Parker as her working-mom heroine, Kate Reddy.

But she never forgot her David — and she reckons many of us haven't forgotten our teen idol crushes, either. Her new book, I Think I Love You, which hit stores this week, is not only a paean to Cassidy but an exploration of the fragile emotions and fraught relationships of the teenage years.

"People may think it's silly, but the teen idol crush is really, really powerful," said Pearson, sipping a cappuccino on a recent afternoon in Manhattan. "It's a dress rehearsal for love. You're in love with the IDEA of being in love."

If the author seemed to be glowing a bit, the reason may have been her experience earlier that morning. Appearing on NBC's Today, she'd been surprised on set by none other than Cassidy himself, now 60 and still performing. Luckily, she'd dressed right — she was wearing a ribbon-trimmed David Cassidy photo on her lapel, close to her heart.

Afterward, the two talked, and Cassidy even agreed to appear in the jukebox musical she's writing based on the book — as long as it makes it to Broadway, Pearson says. (She's collaborating with her husband, New Yorker film critic Anthony Lane, on the script.)

Who knows if it will actually happen, but imagine growing up to write a musical about your teen idol that your teen idol actually appears in? Talk about your full-circle moment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Momma's back for Part 3

Brandon T. Jackson joins Martin Lawrence in drag

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

HANDOUT

▶ Brandon T. Jackson, left, and Martin Lawrence in a scene from Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son.

Say what you will about Friday's release of Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son — the third installment in the film franchise that features Martin Lawrence as a federal agent disguised as an old lady — it's found a place in Hollywood's history of cross-dressing comedies.

"Martin was able to make Big Momma so real and relatable," said director John Whitesell (who also directed Big Momma's House 2). "We all have a Big Momma in our life and I think that really struck me."

In this latest version however, Lawrence isn't flying solo. When his stepson (Tropic Thunder's Brandon T. Jackson) witnesses a murder, the pair both go undercover in lady's undergarments.

"I think it's kind of funny that you always know it's a guy under there," said Jackson of the movies' secret to success. "That's what makes it so funny."

While Whitesell agrees on the comedic potential, the director was initially reluctant to attempt a third chapter.

"By bringing Brandon undercover and in drag, you kind of get a two-hander," explained Whitesell. "By now having a partner undercover, we opened up a lot more possibilities comedically and made it fresh and more relatable for a younger audience."

"I love people. As actors, you've got to be so detached and go off into this land of Who knows where we are. I like to listen to what people got to say about life."
BRANDON T. JACKSON ON WHY HE'LL NEVER QUIT STAND-UP COMEDY

Whitesell admits there was no better choice than Jackson as well. In fact, the filmmaker is first to admit he cast the popular stand-up comedian at the perfect time.

"He's going to be (a big star)," proclaimed Whitesell. "But he does so many different things, I think its hard to pigeonhole him into one and that may be part of the reason he's taking a little longer to be as big as I think he's going to be."

HANDOUT

▶ Director John Whitesell

In the past

Other Hollywood crossdressers

- **Some Like it Hot (1959)** Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis go incognito to avoid the mob.
- **Tootsie (1982)** Out-of-work actor Dustin Hoffman tries his luck as a lady.
- **Mrs. Doubtfire (1993)** Robin Williams dons the disguise of a British nanny.
- **Victor Victoria (1982)** Julie Andrews impersonates a male female impersonator. Follow that?

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It's an unfriendly neighbourhood, Spider-Man

Bad reviews, glitches and safety violations add up to a troubled week for the Broadway musical

Producers of the Broadway musical Spider-Man: Turn off the Dark were likely looking forward to today: They'll be happy to turn their back on a torrid week.

The $65-million musical was loudly booed last Monday night by professional critics impatient with the endless delays with the stunt-heavy show. Breaking with tradition, reviewers weighed in while the show is still in previews, calling it "a shrill, insipid mess" (the Washington Post) and likely to "rank among the worst" musicals of all time (the New York Times).

Then on Thursday night, as if to prove the Julie Taymor-directed show isn't yet fully ready with about a month to go before its official opening, another technical hiccup left actors playing the Green Goblin and Spider-Man hanging helplessly over the audience for several minutes.

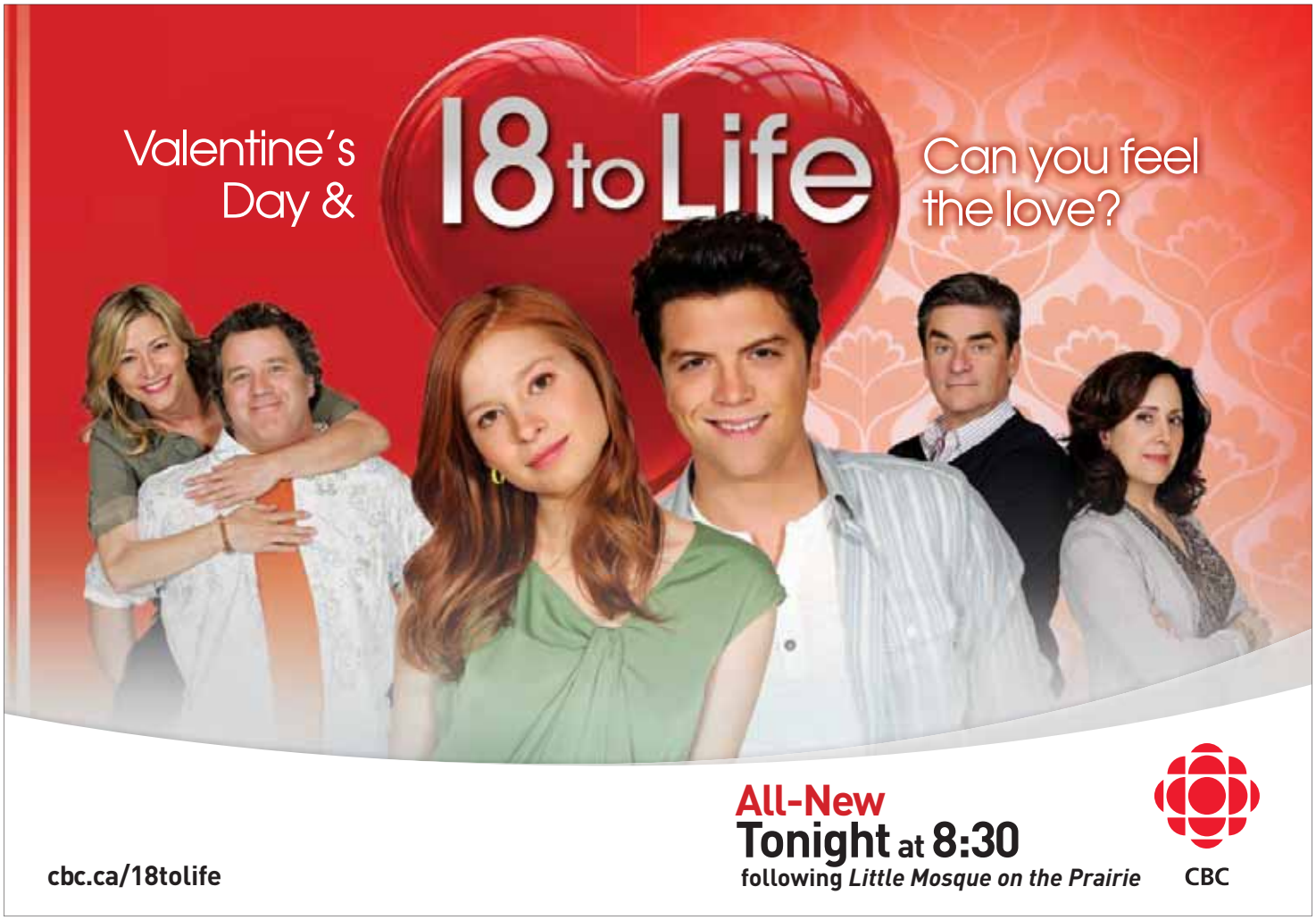
THE O AND M CO., JACOB COHL/THEASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Spider-Man: Turn off the Dark has been beset by various problems.

Now comes word that the New York State Department of Labor has issued two safety violations against the Broadway musical. Citing an anonymous state official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to release the findings, the New York Times reported Saturday that the safety violations were related to accidents last year.

No financial penalties have been imposed on the production, but state safety officials will perform surprise inspections from now on, the official said. Further violations could lead to the withdrawal of variances issued last year allowing aerial stunts that involve Spider-Man and the other characters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Divorce no real surprise

After marrying young, having a kid young, split comes as no shock

The divorce between Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz is completely understandable, according to People magazine.

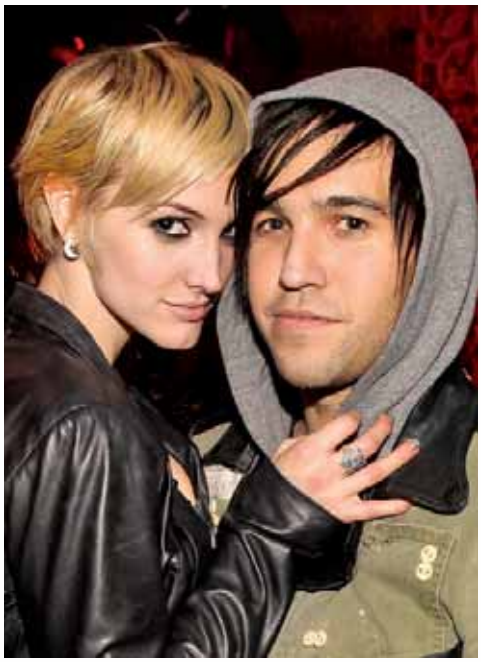
"It was honestly a classic case of marrying young, having a kid young and growing apart over the years," a source tells the magazine. Simpson may also have felt overwhelmed by her parental duties and the effect it had on her career.

"It was honestly a classic case of marrying young, having a kid young and growing apart over the years."
SOURCE

"Ashlee was the one with Bronx a lot of the time, and that's a lot," the source says.

"Ashlee loves being a mom, but she also loves being a performer and she wants to badly get back to that." METRO

GETTY IMAGES FILE



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Strange proposal

David Foster and his new fiancee Yolanda Hadid certainly don't have a typical story about their holiday proposal.

"Strangely enough, we got engaged at Yolanda's ex-husband's house — because that's where we met," Foster said Friday as he and his new mate arrived on the red carpet at a MusiCares benefit in honour of Barbra Streisand.

Didn't Hadid's ex mind that he was proposing?

"He introduced us," Foster replied with a smile.

The 15-time Grammy winner has been married three times previously. He has five children from his previous marriages, the most recent of which to actress and former beauty queen Linda Thompson ended in 2005.

Hadid, a Dutch model, has three children from her marriage to real estate developer Mohamed Hadid.

Foster says the couple is "loosely" planning on getting married on Nov. 11, which, given the year, would be 11/11/11. METRO

Lohan looking to walk

Despite her continued problems with the law, Lindsay Lohan could still avoid spending any time in jail, experts tell People magazine.

"This is far from a slam-dunk case," defense attorney Steve Sitkoff tells the magazine of Lohan's recent felony charge for allegedly stealing a $2,500 necklace.

"This is far from a slam-dunk case."
SOURCE

Sitkoff says all Lohan's lawyer will need to do is "convince one juror it was an innocent misunderstanding, and she could walk." METRO

Talking points

Jake being linked to Mulligan

PEOPLE Jake Gyllenhaal has sources speculating that he's getting sweet on Oscar-nominated actress Carey Mulligan. Gyllenhaal reportedly took Mulligan all the way to Tennessee to see British band Mumford & Sons perform.

After checking out the show, the pair then reportedly joined the band for dinner at Nashville's City House restaurant. METRO

Playboy guests fall ill

PEOPLE Health officials on Saturday were investigating complaints of respiratory illnesses that a media report said affected dozens of people after a fundraiser at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles that was part of a larger conference. The Department of Public Health issued a statement Saturday saying only that it was investigating a suspected respiratory infection outbreak among attendees. METRO

Foxx fight spills out into street

Usher concert disrupted as Jamie scraps with his former management

A scuffle reportedly involving Jamie Foxx disrupted a performance by Usher at a crowed L.A. nightclub over the weekend, according to Radar Online.

The Oscar-winning actor was reportedly having an argument with a former manager that turned physical and "spilled to the outside area," a source says.

"After some cops approached, both men seemed to make-up with one another before they left."

Foxx reportedly then left with a scowl on his face.

"I don't know what the guy said to Jamie Foxx, but he was really pissed," the source says.

"I don't know what the guy said to Jamie Foxx, but he was really pissed."
SOURCE

METRO

Celebrity tweets

Lindsay Lohan [@lindsaylohan] I pray Egypt maintains it's treaty with Israel and sets the trend for its neighbors to create peace with Israel and the entire region

Arnold Schwarzenegger [@SCHWARZENEGGER] Exciting news. My friends at CAA have been asking me for 7 years when they can take offers seriously. Gave them the green light today.

Joel McHale [@joelmchale] For five bucks, Chevy Chase will perform the entire "Candygram" routine with the family member of your choosing.

Conan O'Brien [@Conan-OBrien] When I really stop and think about it, I realize I've only enjoyed four sandwiches in my life.

METRO

Banton's trafficking trial set to kick off

Buju Banton checked out some cocaine, put some on his finger and tasted it — all of it caught on law enforcement video inside a Florida warehouse.

Now he has another chance to explain why he did what he did.

The Grammy-nominated singer's second trial is scheduled to begin Monday with jury selection, five months after a previous jury hung on federal drug trafficking charges that could put him in prison for life.

Banton, whose real name is Mark Myrie, claims he was entrapped by a confidential informant and got in over his head while trying to impress the man, who implied he could help Banton's music career.

The U.S. government says Banton conspired with two associates to buy a shipment of cocaine from an undercover officer.

The two other men pleaded guilty and agreed to co-operate with investigators.

Their sentencing hearings are scheduled to start some time next month.

METRO

Billy not angered by Elton

Elton John may have given Billy Joel some "tough love" in his recent Rolling Stone interview, suggesting Joel needs help addressing his alcohol problem, but Joel isn't mad at his British friend.

"I've enjoyed our relationship too much to let something as random as these comments change my affection for him," Joel says in a statement.

He goes on to list his thoughts on the matter:

"1. I do not hate Elton John. 2. I do not want to 'punch him in the face.' 3. If he wants to call me, my number is still the same."

1. I do not hate Elton John. 2. I do not want to "punch him in the face. 3. If he wants to call me, my number is still the same"
BILLY JOEL

METRO

3 life

Quick love fix

Forgot about Valentine's Day? If so, here are some thoughtful last-minute ideas.

Love letter
Express your love with a handwritten letter. Then have it framed.

Photo collage
Create a collage of your favourite moments together.

Balloon bouquet
Fill clear balloons with candles, love notes and trinkets.

Snack basket
Put together your sweetie's favourite salty and sweet snacks. NEWS CANADA

Are you in the mood for love? Victoria is Canada's most romantic city, survey finds.

Is it possible that separate mattresses or blankets can make you and your partner closer?
Experts say there are creative ways to stay intimate while getting a good night's sleep

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ LEGGETT & PLAT

Companies such as Leggett & Plat offer bed bases that contain separate mattresses placed side by side. They're designed to ensure closeness for partners who have different sleeping habits.

To share or not to share a bed?

What do you do if your lover snores or twitches? What if he or she likes the blankets tucked in and you don't? These types of habits that keep people awake are more common than you may think.

The Better Sleep Council, funded by the mattress industry, surveyed 1,000 Americans in 2007 and found one in three say their partner's sleep habits affect their own sleep.

But, say designers and therapists, there are plenty of creative solutions to such problems.

"I'm a hopeless romantic," says Christopher Grubb a designer from Beverly Hills, Calif., who likes helping clients enjoy sleeping in the same room.

"We like the time we spend together as a family before going to bed. It's special." LETA HAMILTON, WHOSE HUSBAND SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR OF THEIR BEDROOM BECAUSE HE PREFERS A HARD SURFACE.

Snoring, he says, is a common problem among his clients, and one found relief with an anti-snoring pillow from Sona, one of several companies that offer pillows designed to help prevent snoring by keeping the airway open.

Grubb also suggests sheets with a high thread count to maximize comfort, a mid-weight comforter to balance different temperature preferences, and beds that cater to partners' different needs.

Sometimes that can mean two mattresses placed side by side.

For example, Leggett & Platt offers a bed base called the Prodigy. Imagine two hospital beds side by side, each of which can be raised and lowered independently, plus a massage feature that can be used as a silent alarm in the morning. Each partner has a separate mattress and can choose firmness.

Going to this extra effort is worth it, says Tina B. Tessina, a psychotherapist who blogs as Dr. Romance.

"Sleeping apart can contribute to the disconnect that plagues many relationships. It just makes it easier to avoid each other, when what's really needed is connection and contact," Tessina said.

Barbara Bartlein, a clinical psychotherapist in Milwaukee, Wis., said that sleep is important but so is the connection from sleeping together.

"The key is you must also take the time for physical closeness and intimacy.

"Many couples start the night together and then move apart if one person is moving, snoring, etc.

"One of the advantages of sleeping together is you have the opportunity for bedroom talk."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The bed debate

Learn more about separate beds online.

- National Sleep Foundation: sleepfoundation.org
- Leggett & Platt: lpcpg.com/products/foundations
- Dr. Romance blog: drromance.typepad.com/dr-romance-blog/

A vintage spin on weddings

As aficionados of antiques and '50s fashion, Elise and Kevin Woodall knew they wanted their wedding to have a vintage flavour.

While planning, Elise visited a Calgary bridal fair and saw images that didn't jibe with her vision.

"They had mockups of tables and decorations, and it was all shiny organza and taffeta and just not my style," she recalled.

Elise, 24, and Kevin, 25, went on the hunt for vintage items, paying visits every few weekends to Nanton, Alta., south of Calgary, to comb through the latest arrivals at various antique and thrift stores.

Catherine Lash, creative director of The Wedding Co., said incorporating vintage could include drawing on new discoveries or pre-existing family treasures.

"It's sort of an overall look to a wedding but I think it's also a way to bring in an heirloom if you can," said Lash.

For brides, having a wrapped bouquet with a vintage brooch or wearing one is a way to help feel good about tapping into that tradition, she noted.

"Even if it's a vintage piece that didn't belong to you, there's just history."

There are options for couples seeking to add a dose of vintage but perhaps without the time to seek out items themselves.

DARREN CALABRESE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vintage pieces can add a unique touch to any wedding.

Selena Hazlitt, owner of Hazlitt Vintage Rentals located near Goderich, Ont., offes one-of-a-kind items and props, including furniture and accessories, for rent by couples for weddings, or for photo shoots and other events.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turning Point

TERESA KRUZE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

TAKING A CHANCE, MAKING A CHANGE

How do you deal with change and the turning points in your life?

If you're Emilie Delestrade of Vancouver, then the answer is, "Just fine, thank you very much."

Emilie has changed her country, her culture, and her career – three times.

She moved from her native France to Canada when her husband started a new job. She went from teaching to working as an environmental scientist in Vancouver.

Then looking for something different, she changed her career once again when she decided to become a Doula.

A Doula provides support to new mothers in the delivery room. Emilie finds running her own Doula business has brought many challenges but the rewards have been great.

"You can't wait for people to come to you. You have to network and ask people how they did things."

Emilie's getting ready to change her life once again.

She's going to be a new mother in June. But when it comes to starting your own business she has these words of advice. "Don't jump in right away. Build a solid plan that you can follow. And above all, believe in yourself."

▶ Emilie Delestrade of Vancouver

Doula Facts

Having a Doula as part of the birth team:

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Melt your love's heart with this treat

This chocolate caramel cookie will make Valentine's Day even sweeter

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Bake up some tasty treats for your special Valentine.

But these aren't just your regular cookies.

They contain a caramel surprise that will make you want to keep the recipe handy to bake more during the year.

Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, beat softened butter until light. Add the brown and granulated sugar and beat until fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time until combined. Then, beat in vanilla.
2. In another bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, soda and salt. Stir into butter mixture until combined. Add chocolate chips and stir to distribute evenly.
3. Break chocolate bars into individual squares; set aside.
4. Using tablespoon, scoop dough into hands; roll into ball. Make a small indentation with finger to insert chocolate square piece and roll again to cover chocolate and form ball. Place on parchment paper lined baking sheet, about 2 inches (5 cm) apart. Bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for about 12 minutes or until cookies are light golden.
5. Let cool for 5 minutes in pan on rack. Remove to cooling rack and let cool completely. Repeat with remaining dough.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 mL) butter
- 1 cup (250 mL) brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) vanilla
- 3 cups (750 mL) flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking soda
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
- 1 bag (300 g) mini chocolate chips
- 4 bars (52 g each) caramel filled chocolate bars

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOK BOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.

EMILY RICHARDS

▶ You can omit the caramel centres and pat some cookie dough into a heart-shaped cookie cutter. Lift the cookie cutter and place on baking sheet. Repeat the step.

Top up your RSP ASAP.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ HO

▶ These bake-free cookies are perfect for breakfast, or any time.

A no-bake cookie for your little Valentines

Include your kids in the fun of Valentine's Day with this delicious snack that the they can take part in preparing.

Studded with dried cherries, walnuts, dark chocolate and mixed with nutritious rolled oats and wheat germ, these breakfast – or anytime – cookies will be a hit.

Preparation:

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, combine walnut butter, honey and molasses. In a large bowl, combine rolled oats, walnuts, wheat germ, dried cherries, skim milk powder, chocolate chips, cinnamon and sea salt. Add molasses and honey mixture to dry ingredients, working everything together until the mixture holds its shape when formed into a ball.
3. Take 50 ml (1/4 cup) of the mixture, form into a ball and press onto the baking sheet to flatten into a cookie shape. Repeat the process until you have no remaining mixture.
4. Store cookies in an airtight container in the fridge or freezer for optimal freshness.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 250 ml (1 cup) walnut butter (or other nut/seed butter)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) honey
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) molasses
- 625 ml (2 1/2 cups) rolled oats
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) walnut pieces, toasted
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) wheat germ
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) dried cherries, chopped
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) skim milk powder
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) dark chocolate chips
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cinnamon
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) sea salt

WHAT IS HIDING IN YOUR PARFUM?

My baby lotion is labeled paraben, petroleum and phthalate-free. But, the label also lists parfum. Could this be a natural parfum or are there hidden chemicals in my baby lotion? ***Diane Fabbricino of Calgary***

You're not alone. Lots of people trying to avoid harmful chemicals — like parabens, petrolatum and phthalates — are stumped when they run into parfum or fragrance on a label. The truth is we as consumers (and moms) don't know what's in parfum.

When the David Suzuki Foundation invited Canadians to read the labels on their personal care products and look for a "dirty dozen" harmful ingredients, parfum was the one most commonly found — in 56 per cent of the products entered. And like you, 62 per cent of the 6,200 people who took our survey were already carefully reading ingredient lists.

Parfum is a code word that can represent any number of unspecified fragrance chemicals. Over 3,000 chemicals are used as fragrances, but manufacturers are not required by law to disclose them. In other words, there's no way you can tell which of those 3,000-plus chemicals are in the parfum in your baby lotion

▶ Do you know what's in your baby's bottle?

from reading the label. Call or write the manufacturer. Every company should have a contact form or a 1-800 number on the product packaging, or on their website. Then, ask them what's in their parfum.

You're definitely on track when it comes to reducing your baby's exposure to harmful chemicals. Now avoid parfum. In most cases, it's a matter of scrolling to the end of the ingredient list on personal care products. It's almost always lurking at the bottom. And visit davidsuzuki.org to send our Health Minister a Valentine asking her to require manufacturers to disclose specific fragrance ingredients.

David Suzuki Foundation

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Go ugly, go green

Rock your ugly sweaters and turn down the heat on WWF Sweater Day

Remember that wacky snowman sweater you got last Christmas? The one that's hidden in the back of your closet? Well, it's time to dig it out, because tacky is back in a big way.

WWF-Canada is calling on all Canadians to don the tackiest sweater they can find to raise awareness of energy conservation.

The first official National Sweater Day will take place Thursday as part of WWF-Canada's ongoing efforts to inspire Canadians to take simple actions to reduce their carbon footprint. WWF-Canada is calling on Canadians to turn down their thermostats by three degrees for the day and wear fun, funky sweaters to symbolize their commitment to the environment.

"Wearing a tacky sweater on Sweater Day is a great way to celebrate simple actions like turning down the thermostat to help fight climate change," said Gerald Butts, President and CEO of WWF-Canada. "We're asking Canadians from across the country to participate to show their commitment to energy conservation."

Residential heating produces about 44 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year. Turning down the thermostat by a couple of degrees can make a big difference in fighting climate change. If every Canadian turned down their thermostat by two degrees each winter, 2.2 megatonnes of carbon dioxide could be saved every year — the equivalent of taking 350,000 cars off the road. **NEWS CANADA**

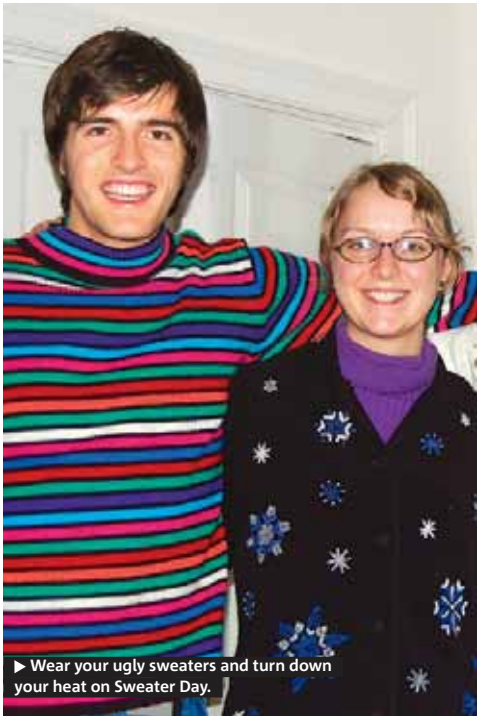
Sweater Day

There are a number of ways to get involved in Sweater Day and show your support for WWF-Canada and the fight against climate change.

▶ **Sign-up** Sign-up for Sweater Day at wwf.ca/SweaterDay to show your support for energy conservation and raise awareness of the effects of climate change.

▶ **Share** spread your love for the planet. Get your friends, family, co-workers and classmates involved in Sweater Day. The more people who participate, the greater the impact we will have on the planet.

▶ **Do more** Go the extra mile. Host a Sweater Day Party and invite your friends and family to share in the tacky sweater fun. Ask them to turn their thermostats down before they come over.


▶ Wear your ugly sweaters and turn down your heat on Sweater Day.

Why not to find romance by the water cooler

Pursuing a relationship with a co-worker might seem like a fun adventure, but you could be risking more than your heart by doing so

ISTOCK

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all. But if you love at work, you could lose it all: your job, your colleagues, your reputation, your career. Like all enclosed social settings, the workplace can steam up into an irresistible incubator of amour fou, and career counsellors say as many as half of us are someday destined to catch a gulp of Love Potion No. 9 at the company coffee pot. But not all love stories come with a happy epilogue, and before you fall head over high heels for that workmate-slash-soulmate, take one last, sober look at where you're tumbling from.

"Think about all the things that you want to be in your career," warns Courtney Anderson, a workplace relationship expert. "And ask yourself how being perceived as someone who is more interested in romance than finance is going to help."

It may help your colleagues spice-ify the drudgery of office routine.

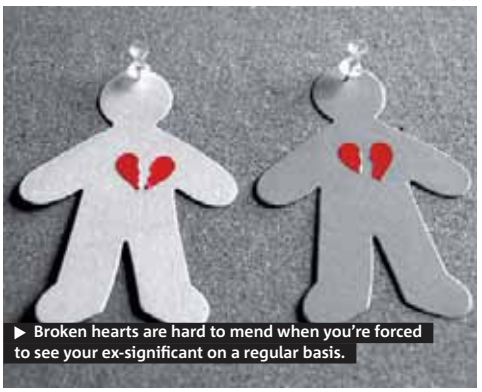
"People love when co-workers date in the office. It gives them something to talk about," author Helaine Olen of Office Mate notes. "What people worry about is the possibility that you'll have a break-up."

Or the possibility that you'll have a one-up.

"People become jealous," Anderson adds. "And not because they want to date your boyfriend, but because they're coming to work early and doing 100 little tasks and you don't really have to do that anymore because look who you're dating."

Every leap of the heart comes with a hundred risks, but if you're already smitten, it's likely already too late.

ISTOCK



▶ Broken hearts are hard to mend when you're forced to see your ex-significant on a regular basis.

Keeping it secret

Think you've kept your crush on hush? Chances are, you're puppy love is already out of the bag.

- "Ninety-nine per cent of people, when they're in love, they're glowing and everyone can see," Anderson points out.
- "If someone asks you pointblank, don't deny it, but you don't need to send out an inter-office memo," Olen says, offering a better way to break the news: "Show up as a couple at an after-hours function."
- "If you've decided that the relationship is real, someone needs to transfer," she says. "So that you're both respected.

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Lemieux calls brawl a 'travesty'

Normally quiet owner criticizes NHL's response to fight-filled game

The NHL intended to deliver a message to all its players when it punished the New York Islanders over the weekend. It didn't go nearly far enough for one of the greatest to ever play the game.

Mario Lemieux questioned the direction of the league in a scathing statement released yesterday, openly wondering about his future involvement with the NHL after his Pittsburgh Penguins were involved in a fight-filled game with the Islanders.

"Hockey is a tough, physical game, and it always should be," said Lemieux, the Penguins co-owner. "But what happened Friday night on Long Island wasn't hockey. It was a travesty. It was painful to watch the game I love turn into a sideshow like that.

"The NHL had a chance to send a clear and strong message that those kinds of actions are unacceptable and embarrassing to the sport. It failed."

The reaction from Lemieux came a little more than 12 hours after Colin Campbell suspended two Islanders players and fined the organization $100,000 US.

The NHL disciplinarian travelled to Buffalo on Saturday night and held face-to-face meetings with forwards Trevor Gillies and Matt Martin to discuss their actions. Within hours, Gillies was suspended nine games and Martin was banned four games.

It wasn't enough to satisfy Lemieux.

"We, as a league, must do a better job of protecting the integrity of the game and the safety of our players," the Hockey Hall of Famer said in his statement. "We must make it clear that those kinds of actions will not be tolerated and will be met with meaningful disciplinary action.

"If the events relating to Friday night reflect the state of the league, I need to re-think whether I want to be a part of it."

Lemieux didn't specify exactly what he would have liked to have seen done.

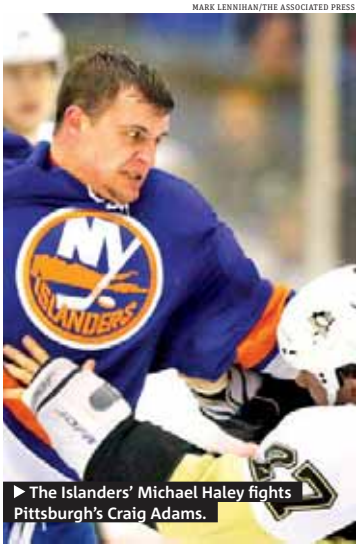
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boiling point

The game included 346 penalty minutes and 10 ejections. Pittsburgh was hammered 9-3.

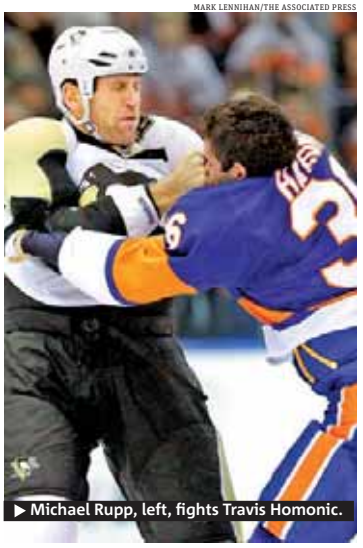
- **It came after** a Feb. 2 game that saw the Islanders lose Rick DiPietro for four to six weeks because of broken bones in his face as the result of a punch from Penguins goalie Brent Johnson.
- **The Islanders** entered Friday's game still bitter about the incident and seemed intent to take matters into their own hands.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ The Islanders' Michael Haley fights Pittsburgh's Craig Adams.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

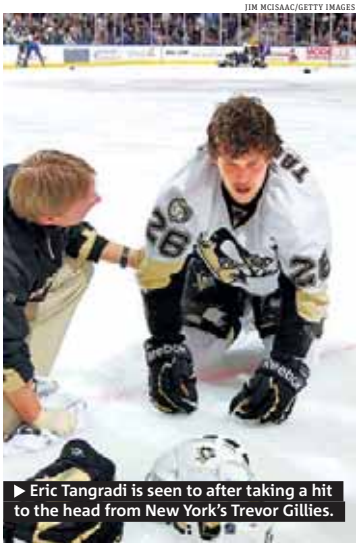


▶ Michael Rupp, left, fights Travis Homonic.

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Haley also went after Pittsburgh goalie Brent Johnson.

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Eric Tangradi is seen to after taking a hit to the head from New York's Trevor Gillies.

Going West?

With two weeks until the trade deadline, teams in the tight Western Conference are looking for any edge to get ahead. "There's going to be a migration west," said one Western Conference executive.

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

NEED
Defence help with Alex Edler hurt. Still looking for a centre. Injuries starting to pile up.

HOT TALK
Interested in Kris Versteeg and Ottawa's Jarkko Ruutu.

SAN JOSE SHARKS

NEED
Offensive defenceman, maybe Chris Campoli.

HOT TALK
Sharks like Alex Goligoski, Tomas Kaberle.

LOS ANGELES KINGS

NEED
High-end forward with Marco Sturm on long-term IR.

HOT TALK
Alexei Kovalev, Stephen Weiss or Jason Arnott after missing out on Mike Fisher.

ANAHEIM DUCKS

NEED
A goalie better than Ray Emery to back up Jonas Hiller.

HOT TALK
Senator Chris Campoli might be a good fit on blue-line.

DETROIT RED WINGS

NEED
With Chris Osgood ailing, they need goaltending.

HOT TALK
Tomas Vokoun, Pascal Leclaire, J.S. Giguere come up in conversations.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

NEED
Goaltending, a defensive defenceman who can kill penalties and more offence.

HOT TALK
Brent Seabrook is on the block.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

4 sports

Canucks preview

Canucks at Blues
5 p.m.
TV: SNET-VAN
Radio: AM 1040

The league-leading Canucks (36-11-9) continue to roll with seven wins in their last eight games. Defenceman Sami Salo played his first game of the season during Saturday's win over Calgary — a welcome sight with blue-liners Dan Hamhuis (concussion), Keith Ballard (knee) and Alex Edler (lower back) all out with injury. Amazingly, goaltender Roberto Luongo is 16-0-5 in his past 21 appearances.

Consecutive losses to Minnesota have left St. Louis (24-21-9) a long way from playoff position. The Blues are just 4-9-4 in their last 17 games. Top goaltender Jaroslav Halak was pulled for the third time this season during a 3-1 loss to the Wild on Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for sports

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	55	36	14	2	3	182	139	77	19-8-0-2	17-6-2-1	7-3-0-0	L1
d-Tampa Bay	56	34	17	3	2	172	172	73	19-6-1-1	15-11-2-1	8-2-0-0	W1
d-Boston	56	31	18	2	5	172	135	69	15-11-1-2	16-7-1-3	5-5-0-0	L2
Pittsburgh	58	35	19	2	2	173	141	74	20-10-1-0	15-9-1-2	6-4-0-0	L2
Washington	56	29	17	5	5	151	140	68	17-7-2-5	12-10-3-0	4-3-1-2	L2
Montreal	57	31	20	4	2	151	143	68	19-7-3-2	12-13-1-0	5-3-0-2	W1
NY Rangers	58	30	24	2	2	162	144	64	13-12-1-2	17-12-1-0	3-6-0-1	W1
Carolina	57	27	22	4	4	168	175	62	14-9-1-1	13-13-3-3	4-4-2-0	W1
Atlanta	58	25	23	4	6	167	188	60	13-12-1-4	12-11-3-2	2-5-1-2	L1
Buffalo	54	26	22	6	0	161	162	58	12-12-2-0	14-10-4-0	7-2-0-1	L1
Florida	55	24	24	3	4	146	148	55	12-9-3-3	12-15-0-1	3-4-1-2	W1
Toronto	56	23	27	3	3	144	174	52	13-11-3-2	10-16-0-1	4-5-1-0	L2
New Jersey	56	22	30	3	1	120	158	48	12-13-2-1	10-17-0-1	8-1-1-0	W4
NY Islanders	56	20	29	3	4	151	186	47	10-13-1-3	10-16-2-1	5-5-0-0	W3
Ottawa	56	18	30	5	3	126	186	44	9-15-2-2	9-15-3-1	1-7-1-1	W1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Vancouver	56	36	11	4	5	190	133	81	20-4-1-4	16-7-3-1	7-1-0-2	W1
d-Detroit	56	34	16	4	2	187	163	74	17-8-3-1	17-8-1-1	6-4-0-0	W2
d-Dallas	56	31	19	2	4	159	158	68	17-8-2-3	14-11-0-1	3-6-1-0	L1
Anaheim	57	32	21	2	2	159	157	68	17-8-0-1	15-13-2-1	8-2-0-0	W4
Nashville	56	30	19	4	3	150	133	67	13-5-3-3	17-14-1-0	5-4-0-1	W2
Phoenix	57	29	19	6	3	162	160	67	13-10-3-2	16-9-3-1	6-4-0-0	W4
San Jose	57	30	21	4	2	158	151	66	13-10-2-1	17-11-2-1	7-2-0-1	L2
Minnesota	55	30	20	1	4	146	145	65	14-11-0-2	16-9-1-2	8-2-0-0	W3
Los Angeles	56	31	22	2	1	156	132	65	17-9-1-0	14-13-1-1	7-1-1-1	W2
Calgary	58	28	22	3	5	168	172	64	16-9-1-2	12-13-2-3	7-1-1-1	L2
Chicago	56	28	22	2	4	177	158	62	16-13-0-0	12-9-3-3	4-4-1-1	L2
Columbus	56	28	23	3	2	152	168	61	14-13-0-1	14-10-3-1	7-3-0-0	W2
St. Louis	54	24	21	4	5	145	162	57	16-8-1-3	8-13-3-2	3-4-2-1	L2
Colorado	56	25	25	6	0	170	186	56	14-13-3-0	11-12-3-0	1-9-0-0	L7
Edmonton	56	16	32	1	7	137	193	40	7-17-1-3	9-15-1-3	2-7-0-1	L3

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Yesterday's results
Carolina 3 Atlanta 2
Columbus 2 Dallas 1
Detroit 4 Boston 2
Florida 3 San Jose 2
Los Angeles 1 Philadelphia 0
N.Y. Islanders 7 Buffalo 6 (OT)
N.Y. Rangers 5 Pittsburgh 3
Anaheim 4 Edmonton 0
Saturday's results
Montreal 3 Toronto 0
Vancouver 4 Calgary 2
Ottawa 5 Edmonton 3
Los Angeles 4 Washington 1
Minnesota 3 St. Louis 1
Nashville 5 Colorado 3
Phoenix 3 Chicago 2 (SO)
Tampa Bay 4 Carolina 3 (OT)
Tonight's games
Vancouver at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Washington at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Colorado, 10 p.m.

DUCKS 4, OILERS 0

First Period
1. Anaheim, Selanne 17 (Blake, Lilja) 0:34
Penalties — Perry Ana (tripping) 2:43, Petry Edm (holding) 11:56, Lilja Ana (boarding) 18:42.
Second Period
2. Anaheim, McMillan 8 (Sexton, Lapierre) 15:24
3. Anaheim, Ryan 26 (Perry, Getzlaf) 16:38
Penalties Parros Ana, MacIntyre Edm (fighting) 7:40.
Third Period
4. Anaheim, Ryan 27 (Perry, Getzlaf) 1:31
Penalties — Beauchemin Ana (interference), MacIntyre Edm (roughing) 2:53, Sutton Ana, Peckham Edm (fighting) 5:53, Sbisa Ana, Smid Edm (fighting) 6:24, Hemsky Edm (holding) 9:33, Hemsky Edm (boarding) 11:43, Omark Edm (holding) 13:56.
Shots

Anaheim	7	7	8—22
Edmonton	5	4	3—12

Goal (shots-saves) — Anaheim: Hiller (W,26-16-3); Edmonton: Dubnyk (L,6-7-6)(15-11), Khabibulin (1:31 third)(7-7). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Anaheim: 0-4; Edmonton: 0-3.
Referees — Stephane Auger, Bill McCreary.
Linesmen — Derek Nansen, Vaughan Rody.
Att. — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton.

SATURDAY

CANADIENS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 0

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Lebda Tor (interference) 3:53, White Mtl (holding) 12:44.
Second Period
1. Montreal, Pouliot 12 (Desharnais, Hamrlik) 10:12
2. Montreal, Gionta 21 (Pacioretty) 11:52
Penalties — Hamrlik Mtl (tripping) 4:00, Montreal bench (too many men, served by Kostitsyn) 12:37, Kostitsyn Mtl (boarding) 16:27, Phaneuf Tor (high-sticking) 18:15.
Third Period
3. Montreal, Desharnais 5 (Gomez, Hamrlik) 6:19 (pp)
Penalties — Boyce Tor (hooking) 5:02, Eller Mtl (hooking) 7:52, Boyce Tor (tripping) 11:07, Crabb Tor (high-stick) 17:29, Boyce Tor (cross-checking) 18:36.
Shots

Toronto	11	8	8—27
Montreal	15	12	12—39

Goal — Toronto: Giguere (L,11-10-3). Montreal: Price (W,27-18-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Toronto: 0-5. Montreal: 1-6.
Referees — Marc Joanette, Dan O'Rourke.
Linesmen — Lonnie Cameron, Brad Kovalchik.
Att — 21,273 at Montreal.

SENATORS 5, OILERS 3

First Period
1. Ottawa, Butler 12:51
2. Edmonton, Cogliano 9 (Eberle, Foster) 3:45
3. Ottawa, Kovalev 12 (Foligno) 7:27
Penalties — Vandermeer Edm (interference) 7:55, Penner Edm (holding) 10:48, O'Brien Ott (holding) 13:30.
Second Period
4. Edmonton, Penner 19 (Hemsky) 4:11
Penalties — Foster Edm (hooking) 10:03, Spezza Ott, Michalek Ott, Smid Edm, Fraser Edm (double roughing) 11:34, Neil Ott, Peckham Edm (roughing), Khabibulin Edm (roughing; served by Hall) 13:37.
Third Period
5. Ottawa, Michalek 14 (Butler, Spezza) 8:03 (pp)
6. Ottawa, Regin 3 (Kovalev, Foligno) 14:10
7. Edmonton, Penner 20 (Hemsky, Omark) 17:39
8. Ottawa, Kovalev 13 (Spezza) 18:37 (en)
Penalties — Jacques Edm (high-sticking) 4:24, Cogliano Edm (hooking) 7:11, Smith Ott (slashing) 8:06, Lee Ott (holding) 9:07, Lee Ott (tripping) 15:34, Spezza Ott (double high-sticking) 19:17.
Shots

Ottawa	6	9	10—25
Edmonton	6	5	7—18

Goal — Ottawa: Elliott (W,13-19-7); Edmonton: Khabibulin (L,8-25-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 1-7; Edmonton: 0-5.
Referees — Brad Meier, Francois St. Laurent.
Linesmen — Don Henderson, Shane Heyer.
Att. — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton.

CANUCKS 4, FLAMES 2

First Period
1. Vancouver, Burrows 16 (Raymond, Malhotra) 10:42 (pp)
Penalties — Jokinen Cal (hooking) 9:23, Staios Cal (tripping) 19:02.
Second Period
2. Calgary, Jackman 10 (Stajan, Babchuk) 2:11
3. Calgary, Glencross 17 (Morrison, Iginla) 4:17
4. Vancouver, Samuelsson 14 (Raymond, Bieksa) 10:40
5. Vancouver, Samuelsson 15 (Ehrhoff, D.Sedin) 13:20 (pp)
Penalties — Babchuk Cal (interference) 12:23, D.Sedin Vcr (holding) 19:49.
Third Period
6. Vancouver, Burrows 17 (Rome, Malhotra) 19:18 (en)
Penalties — Malhotra Vcr (hooking) 4:39, Salo Vcr (inteference) 9:05.
Shots

Calgary	8	10	8—26
Vancouver	13	13	7—33

Goal — Calgary: Kiprusoff (L,24-19-4); Vancouver: Luongo (W,27-8-7). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Calgary: 0-3; Vancouver: 2-3.
Referees — Paul Devorski, Bill McCreary.
Linesmen — Vaughan Rody, Thor Nelson.
Att. — 18,860 (18,810) at Vancouver.

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Toronto	7	5	2	.714	78	67	—
Buffalo	6	4	2	.667	69	57	½
Rochester	6	4	2	.667	61	64	½
Boston	8	5	3	.625	75	59	½
Philadelphia	7	3	4	.429	59	72	2

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Calgary	7	4	3	.571	79	78	—
Minnesota	6	3	3	.500	68	64	½
Washington	8	3	5	.375	95	101	1½
Edmonton	7	2	5	.286	73	85	2
Colorado	6	1	5	.167	53	62	2½

Week Six
Saturday's results
Edmonton 15 Washington 14
Toronto 9 Calgary 8 (OT)
Buffalo 16 Philadelphia 7
Boston 11 Colorado 6
Rochester 12 Minnesota 10
Friday's result
Edmonton 14 Washington 12

CURLING

ONTARIO TANKARD CHAMPIONSHIP

At Grimsby, Ont.

Skip (Hometown)	W	L
x-Peter Corner (Brampton)	8	2
x-Glenn Howard (Coldwater)	8	2
x-Greg Balsdon (Toronto)	7	3
x-John Epping (Peterborough)	7	3
Mark Bice (Sarnia)	6	4
Chris Gardner (Renfrew)	5	5
Dale Matchett (Bradford)	4	6
Mark Kean (Ajax)	3	7
Howard Rajala (Ottawa)	3	7
Nick Rizzo (Brantford)	3	7
Jake Higgs (Harriston)	1	9

x — clinched playoff berth.
Yesterday's results
SEMIFINAL
Greg Balsdon 9 Peter Corner 4
CHAMPIONSHIP
Glenn Howard 10 Greg Balsdon 3
Saturday Results
PAGE PLAYOFFS
One vs. Two
Glenn Howard 11 Peter Corner 5
Three vs. Four
Greg Balsdon 10 John Epping 4

GOLF

PEBBLE BEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM

At Pebble Beach, Calif.
Final Round
(6,816-yard, par-72 Pebble Beach Golf Links; 6,816 yards; 6,953-yard, par-72 Spyglass Hill; 6,838-yard, par-70 Monterey Peninsula Country Club; note—due to different pars, scores listed in par order):

D.A. Points, $1,134,000	63-70-71-67—271
Hunter Mahan, $680,400	70-67-70-66—273
Tom Gillis, $428,400	67-68-70-70—275
Spencer Levin, $277,200	71-68-67-70—276
Steve Marino, $277,200	65-66-71-74—276
Nick Watney, $211,050	68-67-75-67—277
Aaron Baddeley, $211,050	68-71-67-71—277
Bryce Molder, $211,050	69-66-68-74—277
Steven Bowditch, $163,800	71-69-69-69—278
Phil Mickelson, $163,800	71-67-69-71—278
Zack Miller, $163,800	72-69-66-71—278
Jimmy Walker, $163,800	72-68-63-75—278
James Driscoll, $126,000	72-67-70-70—279
J.B. Holmes, $126,000	71-64-73-71—279
Rory Sabbatini, $97,650	68-70-72-70—280
Sam Saunders, $97,650	70-67-72-71—280
Keegan Bradley, $97,650	65-69-74-72—280
Stuart Appleby, $97,650	70-66-72-72—280
Matt Jones, $97,650	70-69-68-73—280
J.J. Henry, $97,650	69-66-71-74—280
Chris DiMarco, $65,520	70-72-68-71—281
Alex Prugh, $65,520	68-73-69-71—281
Marc Leishman, $65,520	74-69-66-72—281
Alex Cejka, $65,520	64-74-67-76—281
Bio Kim, $65,520	74-68-70-69—281
Vijay Singh, $46,620	69-68-73-72—282
Vaughn Taylor, $46,620	74-67-68-73—282
Kris Blanks, $46,620	70-69-69-74—282
Michael Connell, $46,620	69-69-69-75—282
Daniel Summerhays, $46,620	73-68-71-70—282

CHAMPIONS ALLIANZ CHAMPIONSHIP

At Boca Raton, Fla.
Final round
(Charles Schwab Cup points in parentheses):

Tom Lehman (270), $270,000	65-69-69—203
Jeff Sluman (144), $144,000	66-71-67—204
Rod Spittle (144), $144,000	**67-67-70—204**
Olin Browne (97), $97,200	69-70-67—206
Russ Cochran (97), $97,200	69-67-70—206
Jim Rutledge (65), $64,800	**69-71-67—207**
Jay Don Blake (65), $64,800	64-73-70—207
Hale Irwin (65), $64,800	68-68-71—207
David Frost (49), $48,600	67-71-70—208
Larry Mize (49), $48,600	67-70-71—208

AUSTRALIAN LADIES MASTERS

At Gold Coast, Australia
Final round
(a-denotes amateur)

Yani Tseng	67-66-63-68—264
Nikki Campbell	68-67-69-64—268
Stacy Lewis	67-65-67-69—268
Ryann O'Toole	68-66-67-69—270
Lee-Anne Pace	68-70-68-65—271
Amanda Blumenherst	69-70-67-65—271
Sarah-Jane Smith	67-69-69-66—271
a-Cecilia Cho	69-67-68-67—271
Sarah Kemp	74-66-67-65—272
Ji Eun-hee	66-70-69-67—272
Karrie Webb	66-71-68-67—272
Christina Kim	69-69-66-68—272
Belen Mozo	68-71-64-70—273
Ashleigh Simon	68-66-68-71—273
Florentyna Parker	71-66-71-66—274
Also	
Nancy Harvey	**71-69-70-72-282**

DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC

At Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Final round
Par 72

Alvaro Quiros	73-68-68-68—277
Anders Hansen	69-68-71-70—278
James Kingston	72-72-67-67—278
Jean-Baptiste Gonnet	68-69-72-70—279
Scott Strange	72-72-67-68—279
Alvaro Velasco	74-70-65-70—279
Thomas Aiken	67-67-74-72—280
Frederik Andersson Hed	69-71-69-71—280
Peter Hanson	69-69-73-70—281
Bradley Dredge	70-72-71-69—282
Ross Fisher	73-69-70-70—282
Stephen Gallacher	70-69-71-72—282
Rory McIlroy	65-68-75-74—282
Chris Woodnd	71-72-70-69—282

TENNIS

WTA GAZ DE FRANCE SUEZ

At Paris
Singles
Championship
Petra Kvitova (4), Czech Republic, def. Kim Clijsters (1), Belgium, 6-4, 6-3.
Doubles
Semifinals
Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Meghann Shaughnessy (3), U.S., def. Vera Dushevina and Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.

ATP ABN AMRO WORLD TOURNAMENT

At Rotterdam, Netherlands
Singles
Championship
Robin Soderling (1), Sweden, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (8), France, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.
Doubles
Championship
Jurgen Melzer, Austria, and Philipp Petzschner (2), Germany, def. Michael Llodra, France, and Nenad Zimonjic (4), Serbia, 6-4, 3-6, 10-5 (tiebreak).

WTA PTT PATTAYA OPEN

At Pattaya, Thailand
Singles — Championship
Daniela Hantuchova (4), Slovakia, def. Sara Errani (8), Italy, 6-0, 6-2.
Doubles — Championship
Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci (1), Italy, def. Sun Shengnan and Zheng Jie, China, 3-6, 6-3, 10-5 tiebreak.

ATP SAP OPEN

At San Jose, Calif.
Singles
Championship
Milos Raonic. Thornhill, Ont., def. Fernando Verdasco (1), Spain, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5).
Doubles
Championship
Scott Lipsky and Rajeev Ram, U.S., def. Alejandro Falla, Colombia, and Xavier Malisse, Belgium, 6-4, 4-6, 10-8 (tiebreak).

TRANSACTIONS

NHL

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Recalled RW Spencer Machacek from Chicago (AHL).
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled F Zac Dalpe and F Jerome Samson from Charlotte (AHL). Reassigned F Zach Boychuk and F Brett Sutter to Charlotte.
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Assigned D Nick Leddy and F Jeff Taffe to Rockford (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Reassigned F Matt Halischuk to Milwaukee (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS—Re-assigned G Robin Lehner, F Bobby Butler and F Jim O'Brien to Binghamton (AHL).

AHL

CHARLOTTE CHECKERS—Recalled F Mike McKenzie and D Ethan Graham from Florida (ECHL).
ROCHESTER AMERICANS—Returned F Ben Gordon to Reading (ECHL).

ECHL

ECHL—Fined Florida D Mathieu Roy an undisclosed amount for his actions during Friday's game againsts Cincinnati. Suspended Las Vegas C Tyler Mosienko three games and fined him an undisclosed amount for his actions during Friday's game against Victoria. Suspended South Carolina D Grant McNeill one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for his actions during Saturday's game at Gwinnett.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	39	14	.736	—
d-Miami	39	15	.722	½
d-Chicago	36	16	.692	2½
Orlando	35	21	.625	5½
Atlanta	33	20	.623	6
New York	27	26	.509	12
Philadelphia	26	28	.481	13½
Indiana	24	28	.462	14½
Charlotte	23	31	.426	16½
Milwaukee	20	33	.377	19
Detroit	20	35	.364	20
New Jersey	17	38	.309	23
Washington	15	38	.283	24
Toronto	15	40	.273	25
Cleveland	9	46	.164	31

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	45	9	.833	—
Dallas	38	16	.704	7
d-L.A. Lakers	38	17	.691	7½
d-Oklahoma City	34	19	.642	10½
New Orleans	33	23	.589	13
Denver	31	24	.564	14½
Utah	31	24	.564	14½
Portland	30	24	.556	15
Memphis	30	26	.536	16
Phoenix	26	26	.500	18
Houston	25	30	.455	20½
Golden State	24	29	.453	20½
L.A. Clippers	20	34	.370	25
Sacramento	13	38	.255	30½
Minnesota	13	41	.241	32

d – division leader
Yesterday's results
Boston 85 Miami 82
Orlando 89 L.A. Lakers 75
Memphis 116 Denver 108
Washington 115 Cleveland 100
Portland 105 Detroit 100
Toronto 98 L.A. Clippers 93
Golden State 100 Oklahoma City 94
Sacramento 113 Phoenix 108
Saturday's results
Charlotte 88 Atlanta 86
New York 105 New Jersey 95
Philadelphia 107 Minnesota 87
Chicago 97 New Orleans 88
San Antonio 118 Washington 94
Dallas 106 Houston 102
Indiana 103 Milwaukee 97
Oklahoma City 99 Sacramento 97
Tonight's games
L.A. Lakers at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Portland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Denver at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

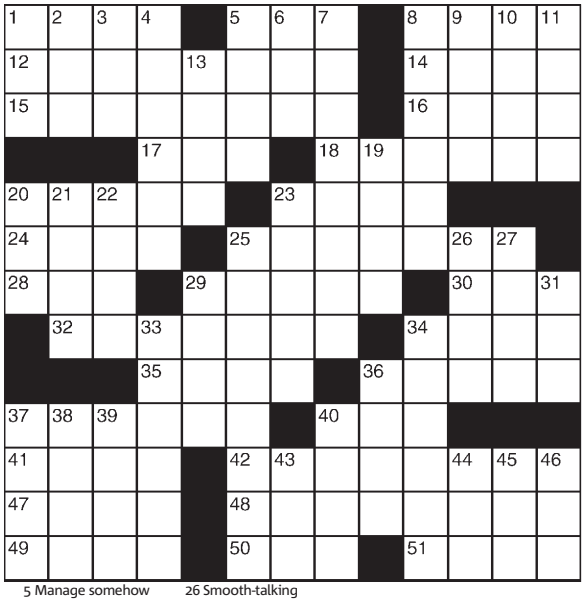
RAPTORS 98, CLIPPERS 93

L.A. CLIPPERS (93)
Gomes 5-8 2-2 14, Griffin 7-13 7-10 21, Jordan 2-2 2-6 6, B.Davis 7-16 6-6 20, Foye 2-14 1-1 5, Bledsoe 2-9 3-5 7, Aminu 1-4 1-2 3, Cook 6-11 2-2 17, Diogu 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-77 24-34 93.
TORONTO (98)
Weems 3-7 4-5 10, A.Johnson 3-5 0-0 6, Bargnani 9-21 8-9 27, Calderon 3-8 4-6 10, DeRozan 7-18 3-5 17, E.Davis 6-8 1-1 13, Barbosa 3-9 4-4 11, Dorsey 0-1 0-0 0, Bayless 0-2 0-0 0, T.Johnson 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 35-82 26-32 98.

L.A. Clippers	24	24	23	22	—93
Toronto	24	24	30	20	—98

3-Point Goals—L.A. Clippers 5-14 (Cook 3-5, Gomes 2-3, Bledsoe 0-1, B.Davis 0-2, Foye 0-3), Toronto 2-13 (Bargnani 1-3, Barbosa 1-5, DeRozan 0-1, Calderon 0-2, Bayless 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Clippers 54 (Griffin 15), Toronto 54 (E.Davis 14). Assists—L.A. Clippers 15 (B.Davis 7), Toronto 16 (Calderon 11). Total Fouls—L.A. Clippers 23, Toronto 27. Technicals—B.Davis, L.A. Clippers Bench, Toronto defensive three second 2.
A—19,800 (19,800) at Toronto.

Crossword



Across

1 It's a long story
5 "The Talk" network
8 Make over
12 Demographic of a sort
14 Still
15 Implode
16 "The — on the Floss"
17 Away from WSW
18 With unfriendliness
20 Beg
23 Writer Vonnegut
24 Injure
25 Institution of higher learning
28 Use a shovel
29 Impressive formation
30 Legislation
32 Miner, perhaps
34 Leaning Tower city
35 Ninth Greek letter
36 Thread
37 Asian sultanate
40 Conger, e.g.
41 Ireland
42 Conversation
47 Plankton component
48 Framework
49 Antelope's playmate
50 Zodiac sign
51 Without (Fr.)

Down

1 Pouch
2 Past
3 Solidify
4 Glistening
5 Manage somehow
6 Ralph Kramden's carrier
7 Mirrorlike
8 Distant
9 Satan's specialty
10 "The Farmer in the —"
11 Having no siblings
13 McNally partner
19 Paris airport
20 Third degree?
21 Nonclerical
22 Therefore
23 "M*A*S*H" locale
25 At a turning point
26 Smooth-talking
27 Facility
29 Burn remedy
31 "— and Peace"
33 Straight
34 Airline employees
36 2009 Broadway musical set in Nigeria
37 Abacus component
38 Anger
39 Incite
40 Ticklish Muppet
43 Raw rock
44 Sine — non
45 Coffee vessel
46 Affirmative

▶ Yesterday's answer

C	H	I		A	P	S	E		A	G	R	A		
S	U	N		P	E	E	N		D	O	O	R		
I	N	V	E	R	S	E	S		R	O	O	T		
		O	R	E	O			J	I	F	F	Y		
S	W	I	G	S		P	R	O	F					
T	A	C	O		F	R	O	S	T	I	N	G		
U	K	E		G	L	O	S	S		N	E	E		
D	E	S	C	R	I	B	E		O	V	E	N		
			H	O	P	E		S	M	A	R	T		
D	E	B	U	G			A	M	I	D				
A	L	A	R		I	N	V	I	T	E	E	S		
T	A	L	C		V	E	E	R		R	E	P		
A	N	K	H		Y	O	R	K		S	K	Y		

Sudoku

6		8				2		9
	2		3		6		4	
4								6
		6	4		9	8		
	1						9	
		7	1		2	5		
8								3
	9		6		5		7	
7		5				9		1

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	7	5	4	2	8	9	3	6
9	8	2	3	7	6	4	1	5
6	3	4	5	9	1	2	8	7
4	1	8	9	3	5	6	7	2
2	5	3	7	6	4	8	9	1
7	9	6	8	1	2	5	4	3
8	2	1	6	4	3	7	5	9
3	4	7	2	5	9	1	6	8
5	6	9	1	8	7	3	2	4

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Corina, Thank you for wishing to be a part of my Life n letting me be a part of yours. You are Amazing. All my Love is yours. **LOVE PAUL XOXO**

Alix, I love so much words can not explain. You are The most special to me in the world and I never want to be one second without you. **LOVE SHANE**

Ella, Happy Valentine's Day. I love you more and more everyday. You are so clever, sweet, and beautiful. It's a little late, but the Taj Mahal is in the city of Agra. Good luck on today's puzzle. **LOVE, YOUR GURL 4EVZ, E.T.**

Donald, you are one-of-a-kind. I'm more than grateful to have a man like you in my life! You are my daily dose of sunshine, and will always be! I can't imagine a me, without you, I Love You Babe! **LOVE, SHANTELLE**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Steer clear of strong emotions today. Others may bare their souls every chance they get but you prefer to keep things private — at least for now.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 At some point today, you will realize a certain person is no good. What will you do about it? Be brave and tell him or her your association is over. Don't worry about hurt feelings — yours are more important.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
There seems to be a lot of noise and confusion in your world and there will be times today when you wish you could switch off completely. So why don't you? You don't have to start the week at full blast.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
There's no point in answering your critics. If they want to make false accusations, that's up to them. Pretend they don't exist. It will hurt them much more than biting back.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 The Sun's transit of your opposite sign is coming to an end. By the weekend, you will have to decide whether to continue with a relationship or end it. Make that decision with your head rather than your heart.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Something will happen that annoys you and a falling out with a friend is possible. Before you go on the warpath, make sure you've got your facts right. It could save apologizing later.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 It's now or it's never. Yes, really. Deep down you know that if you don't follow your heart this week you could miss out forever. Identify your passion and focus on it to the exclusion of everything else.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
There's a certain person who rubs you up the wrong way when work together. No matter who he or she is, his or her presence is having a negative effect. Keep your distance.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Someone of whom you are fond is not in the best of moods at the moment. If you are smart, you will stay out of his or her way. Let him or her enjoy the tantrum.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
There is no reason why you cannot mix business with pleasure today. Just be careful that the pleasure part does not take over. Get obligations out of the way, then reward yourself with a night to remember.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 A positive attitude is a must as the week begins. It will give you the energy and the staying power to see through what you are working on. Self-belief is a must if you intend to win.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Fortune will smile on you this week and people in positions of power will be impressed by the level of energy you bring. But don't run yourself into the ground. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

CHRIS SMITH/ MONGOLIA GARDENS/ AP

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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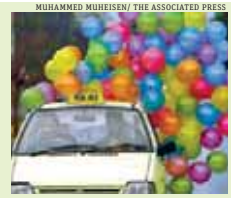

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